

HA-1458

1889

J. H. C. Watts House
520 Mast Street
Bel Air
Private

This house is a rarity in Bel Air: the only domestic Second Empire house in Town. The office of the Record Mill has a better roof, but it has always been commercial. The Nathan Dean house, 125 E. Broadway, has a partial mansard roof and therefore was classified as Second Empire with reservations. The house does have a rather Eastlake front porch. This once opulent house was the home of J. H. C. Watts, who owned a marble quarry at Cambria. In 1927 it passed to Joseph C. Mast, for whom the street was named when it was changed from the original name of Webster Street.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

J. H. C. Watts House

AND/OR COMMON

Kreiner Apartments

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

520 Mast

1st

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Harford

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

___STRUCTURE

___SITE

___OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

___BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___IN PROCESS

___BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

___UNOCCUPIED

___WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

___YES: UNRESTRICTED

___NO

PRESENT USE

___AGRICULTURE

___COMMERCIAL

___EDUCATIONAL

___ENTERTAINMENT

___GOVERNMENT

___INDUSTRIAL

___MILITARY

___MUSEUM

___PARK

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___RELIGIOUS

___SCIENTIFIC

___TRANSPORTATION

___OTHER apts

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Donald J. Kreiner et al

Telephone #: 838-4692

STREET & NUMBER

29 Bonnie Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21014

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: 843

Folio #: 260

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___FEDERAL ___STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☒ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This once opulent house, two stories plus mansard, is at 520 Mast Avenue in the Town of Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland. It is now sided in asphalt shingle. Its three bay front is largely obscured by shrubs and trees. Its major windows are 1/1 double-hung sash, with a pair of 1/1 windows in the center front (east) elevation and a matching pair in the gable roofed dormer above it. The dormer gables have carved sunbursts in them and most of them also have paired windows.

The front (east) porch is carried on stock turned posts. It has an open work cornice with groups of turned members forming an X flanked by numerous spindles supported on carved brackets. The porch itself has a projecting center portion. The entrance in the middle of the front elevation has double doors of single pane glass over two panels topped by a four pane transom and long single pane over panel side lights.

The original house was 42' x 42'.

A two bay ell has been added to the north bay of the rear (west) elevation. The ell has a two story porch at the west end. The south elevation has a two story hexagonal bay window in the east bay with a stained glass window in the south elevation of the bay. A two story enclosed porch with a shed roof is behind (west) of that. On the north elevation is another hexagonal two story bay window. Its north windows are 2/2; narrow 1/1 windows are on the sides.

What could be visited of the interior shows the house to be exceptional for Bel Air (although in lamentible condition). The wide center hall is broad enough to hold a country dance in. The public rooms opening off the hall have large six panel double sliding doors. The long open string single run staircase against the south wall has carved decorative brackets, turned balusters, and a Queen Anne newel post, reeded up to a carved block, with a huge carved ball for a finial. One of the few, if not the only, hall fireplace in Bel Air, is just east of the staircase on the opposite (north) wall. The mantel is of slate with quite simple colonettes and frieze. The center hall runs through to the rear addition.

The house is divided into 8 apartments.

To the south of the house is a single story square stone icehouse with hipped roof and small cupola (lantern?).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES

1889

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

C. H. Holloway of Level

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This imposing house with one of the few mansard roofs in Bel Air was built by C. H. Holloway, a Level contractor, for J.H.C. Watts who owned a marble quarry at Cambria. This is the second house on the lot. The first, a much smaller house, was built by Edward Ferry in 1884 on land he leased (or his mother, Barbara Dunnigan, leased) from Mary Dallam in the Dallam's Addition. Mrs. Dallam, Mrs. Dunnigan and Ferry sold the property to Watts in 1885 for \$2900 (53/294). That house burned in 1889 and the Watts family rented the home of Dr. William S. Richardson while their new house was being built.

Mr. Watts transferred the property to his wife, Mary Dorsey Watts in 1895 for "\$1 and the natural love and affection he bears her" (83/468). Watts died in 1909 and Mrs. Watts married Arthur Lackie. When she sold this and other property in the Dallam's Addition, they were living in San Francisco County, California. Joseph Kraft bought all the property in 1926 (195/422) and mortgaged it to Jeremiah L. Lowe (196/382). He soon defaulted on the mortgage and Lowe bought the property. In 1927 he sold it to Joseph C. & Ada D. Mast (206/200). When the street name was changed from Webster Avenue, it took the name of the house's new owners. Joseph Mast predeceased his wife; Ada died in 1969, and her executors sold it to Donald Kreiner and Daisy Henderson (843/260) in 1970.

The house has 8 apartments in it today and is surrounded by townhouses built on the lot. It is in bad condition.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property occupies parcel #158 in the Town of Bel Air.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marilynn M. Larew

19 September 1979

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Town of Bel Air

838-8700

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

39 Hickory Avenue

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Bel Air

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST 21 STATE CIRCLE SHAW HOUSE ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401 HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET Individual Structure Survey Form | | SURVEY NUMBER: HA-1458 NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER: UTM REFERENCES: Zone/Easting/Northing U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP: PRESENT FORMAL NAME: Kreiner Apartments | |
| COUNTY: Harford TOWN: Bel Air | | ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME: Watts House | |
| LOCATION: 520 Mast | | PRESENT USE: apartments ORIGINAL USE: private residence ARCHITECT/ENGINEER: | |
| COMMON NAME: Kreiner Apartments | | BUILDER/CONTRACTOR: C. H. Holloway of Level | |
| FUNCTIONAL TYPE: private residence OWNER: Donald J. Kreiner et al ADDRESS: 29 Bonnie Avenue Bel Air, Md. | | PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE: Excellent() Good() Fair() Poor(X) | |
| ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Yes() No() Restricted(X) | | THEME: Architecture STYLE: Vernacular | |
| LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local(X) State() National() | | DATE BUILT: 1889 (2nd on site) | |
| GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Structural System 1. Foundation: Stone(X) Brick() Concrete() Concrete Block() 2. Wall Structure A. Wood Frame: Post and Beam() Balloon() B. Wood Bearing Masonry: Brick() Stone() Concrete() Concrete Block() C. Iron() D. Steel() E. Other: 3. Wall Covering: Clapboard() Board and Batten() Wood Shingle() Shiplap() Novelty() Stucco() Sheet Metal() Aluminum() Asphalt Shingle(X) Brick Veneer() Stone Veneer() Bonding Pattern: Other: 4. Roof Structure A. Truss: Wood() Iron() Steel() Concrete() B. Other: 5. Roof Covering: Slate() Wood Shingle() Asphalt Shingle(X) Sheet Metal() Built Up() Rolled() Tile() Other: 6. Engineering Structure: 7. Other: gable-roofed Appendages: Porches(X) Towers() Cupolas() Dormers(X) Chimneys(X) Sheds(X) Ells(X) Wings() Other: Roof Style: Gable() Hip() Shed() Flat() Mansard(X) Gambrel() Jerkinhead() Saw Tooth() With Monitor() With Bellcast() With Parapet() With False Front() Other: Number of Stories: 2 plus mansard Number of Bays: 3 Approximate Dimensions: 42' x 65' | | | |
| THREAT TO STRUCTURE: No Threat() Zoning() Roads() Development() Deterioration(X) Alteration() Other: | | LOCAL ATTITUDES: Positive() Negative() Mixed() Other: | |

Entrance Location: Mast Avenue

ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

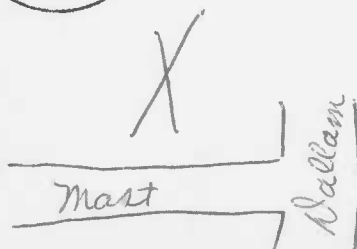
windows 2/2 carved sunburst in gable of dormer
 center front double 1/1 window - same in gable over it
 front porch stock turned posts with 1111 x 1111 cornice (open
 work) & carved brackets/ windows on 1st story front 2/4 entrance large
 transom double doors 1 pane over 2 panel
 long single pane side lights over panel
 interior center hall: double sliding panel doors
 L & R (six panel) slate mantel in hall
 colonettes & Frieze/ open string single run staircase
 W decorative brackets, turned baluster, QA newel
 reeded up to carved block, large ball for finial
 stone hip-roofed spring house S of back door
 2 story bay on S with stained glass window (RH?) 1st story
 2 story bay on N hex 2/2 (n) & 1/1 narrow on sides

RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

REFERENCES:

MAP: (Indicate North in Circle)



SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

Open Lane() Woodland() Scattered Buildings()
 Moderately Built Up() Densely Built Up()
 Residential(✓) Commercial()
 Agricultural() Industrial()
 Roadside Strip Development()
 Other:

Marilynn M. Larew

RECORDED BY:

Town of Bel Air

ORGANIZATION:

17 September 1979

DATE RECORDED:

TITLE: 520 Mast

843/260 30 April 1970
Charles Hardy Madron & James F. O'Neill, co-
executors of Ada D. Mast
to
Donald J. Kreiner & Bonita 1/2
Daisy V. Henderson 1/2
Ada Mast died 29 June 1969; will 30/477
\$37,500
Joseph D. Mast predeceased his wife Ada

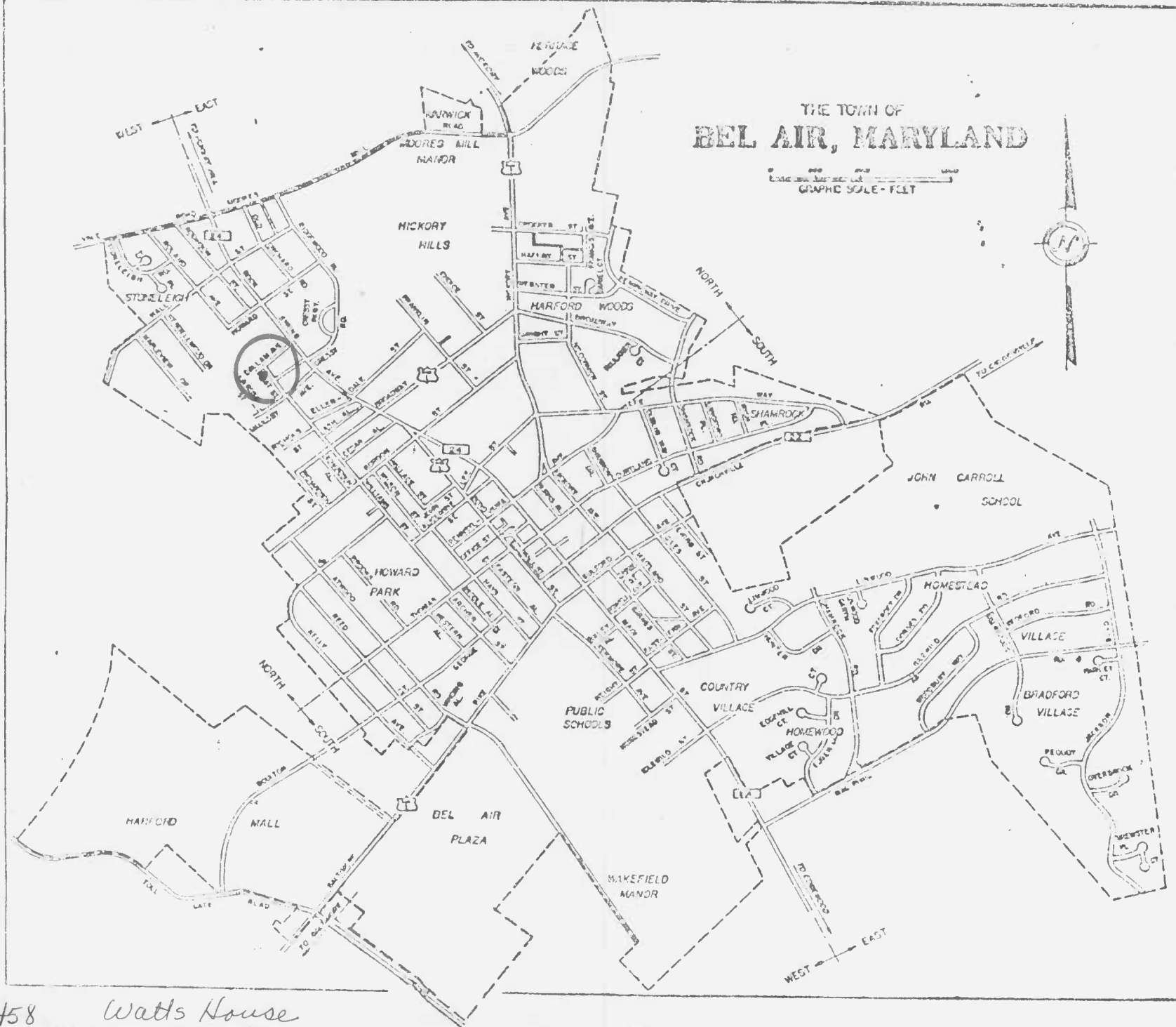
206/200 20 October 1927
S. A. Williams, attorney, & Jeremiah L.
Lowe & Ethel
to
Joseph C. & Ada D. Mast
mortgage (196/382, 1926) from Joseph
Kraft & wife to the Lowes, defaulted
Williams sold it to Lowe, who sold it to Mast

195/422 29 January 1926
Mary Dorsey Lackie & Arthur, of San Francisco
County, California
to
Joseph A. Kraft & Elsie
all of lots 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17 & 18 & parts
of 9 & 14 in Dallam's Addition
The land was devised to Mary Dorsey Lackie
(Mary Dorsey Watts) by will of John H. C. Watts,
who died 17 March 1909 (will 15/52) except for
#17 & 18 for which, see below

83/468 31 January 1895
J. Henry C. Watts
to
Mary Dorsey Watts, his wife
#17 & 18 in Dallam's Addition
the house is on #17

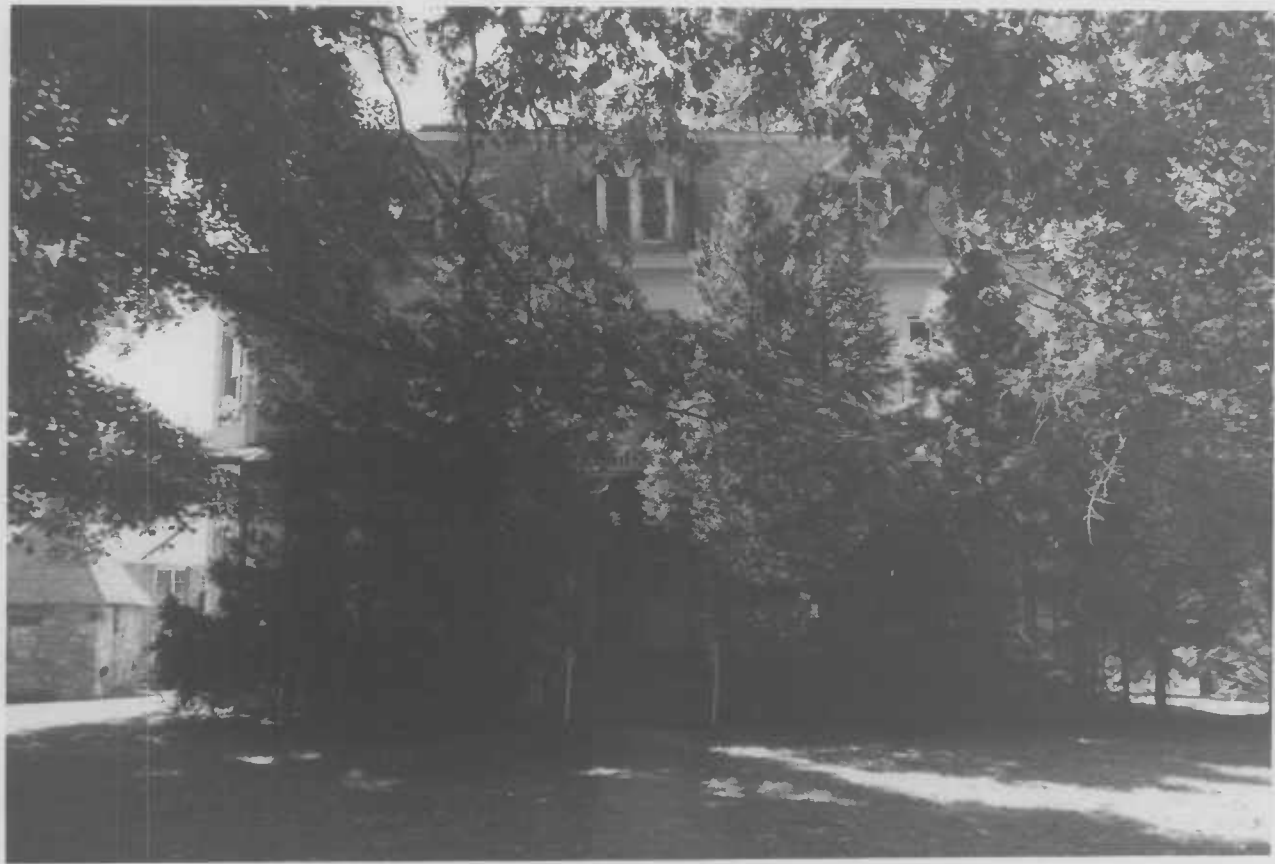
53/294 9 February 1885
Mary C. Dallam, Barnard Dunnigan & Barbara &
Edward Ferry & Mary
to
J.H.C. Watts of Baltimore City
\$2900
Dallam agreed to sell the lots to Barbara Dunnigan,
she sold them to Edward Ferry & he sold them to
Watts

GRAPHIC SCALE - FEET



LA-1458

Watts House
520 Mast ave.











LA-1458

Waterhouse, 520 Marlboro, Bel Air
N. elev., looking E
M. Laro, 1979